



HR0964

LRB099 15923 MST 40239 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to congratulate Dr. Gayle Saunders on the occasion of her retirement as President of Richland Community College in Decatur; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Saunders became the 6th President of Richland Community College in August of 2001; she has more than 37 years of experience as an administrator in higher education, with the past 31 years spent specifically in community college administration; she served in a variety of administrative positions prior to being named President of Richland; and

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WHEREAS, In 2002, Dr. Saunders selected the Academic Quality Improvement Program for the reaccreditation of Richland Community College; under her leadership, Richland has seen the addition of the Scherer Industrial Technology Center (2002), the Schrodts Health Education Center (2003), the Duane O. Andreas Agribusiness Education Center (2006), the Adele P. Glenn Early Childhood Education Center (2007), the Center for Sustainability and Innovation (2008), the Mathematics Enrichment Center (2010), the National Sequestration Education Center (2011), and the Workforce Development Institute (2013) and the relocation of the Heartland Technical Academy (formerly the Decatur Area Technical Academy) to the Richland campus

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1 (2014); the College has seen curriculum additions in the areas
2 of Culinary Arts; Auto Collision Repair; Diesel Medium/Heavy
3 Truck Technology; Supply Chain Management; Healthcare
4 Documentation; Sign Language; Commercial Drivers Tanker
5 Vehicle Training; Engineering, with an emphasis in Carbon
6 Capture Utilization and Storage; and Robotic Welding; and

7 WHEREAS, Under Dr. Saunders' presidency, Decatur was
8 chosen in 2004 as one of the permanent sites for the Farm
9 Progress Show; this past September marked the 10th anniversary
10 of the Farm Progress Show being held on the campus of Richland
11 Community College; the Richland Community College Foundation
12 has flourished under her leadership and is ranked among the top
13 community college foundations in the nation; in June of 2010,
14 the Foundation announced it had reached its Major Gifts
15 Campaign goal of \$17 million, 2 years ahead of schedule; the
16 impact of the Foundation is reflected at the local level by the
17 hundreds of student scholarships it provides, representing
18 over three-quarters of a million dollars in scholarship support
19 annually; and

20 WHEREAS, Dr. Saunders' passion for quality education has
21 been proven through her efforts in the national arena with the
22 Continuous Quality Improvement Network (Executive Secretary
23 and Treasurer), the American Association of Community Colleges
24 Commission on Economic Development and Workforce Training and

1 the Presidents' Academy Executive Committee, the Commission on
2 Global Education through the American Association of Community
3 Colleges, and the American Association of Community College
4 Trustees Presidents' Advisory Committee; and

5 WHEREAS, Dr. Saunders has served in various capacities
6 throughout her career, including the Illinois Community
7 College Presidents' Council (past President), the Illinois
8 Leadership and Core Values Institute (Steering Committee), the
9 Commission on Global Education through the American
10 Association of Community Colleges, Rotary International, the
11 American Red Cross - mid-Illinois Chapter, the United Way of
12 Decatur and mid-Illinois, and Easter Seals Central Illinois;
13 she currently serves as a member of Partners in Education
14 (Steering Committee), the Greater Decatur Chamber of Commerce
15 (past President), the Soy Capital Bank and Trust Board of
16 Directors; Webster-Cantrell Hall, and the Economic Development
17 Corporation of Decatur and Macon County; and

18 WHEREAS, Dr. Saunders is a recipient of several awards for
19 her leadership and community involvement, including the Athena
20 Award (2004), the YWCA Woman of the Year Award (2006), the
21 Salute Honoree for Partners in Education (2007), and the Herald
22 and Review's 20 Over 50 - making a difference in our community
23 (2014); and

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Saunders is a native of Harvard; she holds a
2 Bachelor of Science in Education from Illinois State
3 University, a Master of Science in Counseling and Student
4 Personnel from Eastern Illinois University, and a Doctorate in
5 Leadership and Educational Policy Studies from Northern
6 Illinois University; and

7 WHEREAS, Dr. Saunders will officially retire in the spring
8 of 2016; therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
10 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
11 congratulate Dr. Gayle Saunders on her retirement as President
12 of Richland Community College and we wish her the best in all
13 her future endeavors; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
15 presented to Dr. Saunders as an expression of our esteem and
16 respect.